



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, INUIT COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 2, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
CEC Boardroom

Chair: Carol Bryden, Trustee

Present: Deb Crawford, Steve DeGurse, Margaret Palmer-McCann, Ray Power,
Luana Sfalcin, Caroline VanRoestel-Seward, John Snake, Tyler White,
Georgina Altman, Tiffany Vermast, Trisha Brown, Anne Fournier

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Cathy Calvert

1. *Opening Prayer- All*

Carol Bryden, Chair of the meeting, opened the meeting with prayer.

2. *Welcome and Introductions*

Carol Bryden welcomed and thanked those in attendance, and introductions were made.

3. *Approval of Minutes*

Addition to Minutes: Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education offered a heartfelt thank you to the parents for attending and contributing to this meeting. Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Georgina Altman) That the Minutes for the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of December 2, 2013 be approved as amended. Carried.

4. *Approval of Agenda*

Change of order requested due to time constraints. Item #7 moved to #5 and #5 moved to #7.

Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Ray Power) That the Agenda for the First Nations, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting of Monday, June 2, 2014 be approved as amended. Carried.

5. *Report from the First Nation Communities*

Tyler White – Walpole Island

- Drop-In lunch space at UCC has been a wonderful project and Tyler has been amazed to see how this program works and for being able to connect with the Walpole Island students attending UCC.
- This will be Tyler's last meeting as Robin Isaac will be back in September from her maternity leave. Tyler will be sure to pass information along to Robin.
- Tyler thanked the Committee for allowing him to participate.
- Carol Bryden thanked Tyler for his work on behalf of the Committee.

John Snake – Delaware First nation

- Anniversary in June and another date
- Feasts are always free and open to everyone.
- John will pass dates to Caroline to post.

6. *Reports from Schools*

Ursuline College – *Margaret Palmer*

- Students want to return to the Environmental Education Center in Moraviantown.
- Students want to attend a Pow Wow and would like to host a Pow Wow
- Students are working on a diversity theme project (poster) to increase the awareness for the multicultural students and they are also doing one to increase pride in their First Nations heritage.
- The Drop-In Centre has used some of the money from the Diocese grant for food for lunch for the students who drop in which encourages the students to stay and talk.
- The trip to the Environmental Education Center in Moraviantown provided an opportunity for the students to learn more about themselves within the context of a group that they felt safe. The group bonded with each other while there and brought that back to the larger community within UCC. Ray would like to monitor and evaluate that and see how it changes how they interact.
- The growth in some of the students this year has been amazing.
- There have also been regular visits from First Nations people to smudge with the students.

St. Elizabeth - *Luana Sfalcin*

- January – Reading Intervention Program – purpose was to close gaps in reading by making reading more relevant for FNMI students and other students.
- 16 students involved in this program
- Worked with Circle of Life Reading Program – sample books were passed around.
- There were also extended level reading books available for students.
- A reading survey was done before the program began and the survey will be done at the end of the survey. All students have shown improvement. Students have been extremely motivated to read their new books with their groups.
- Teachers from Walpole Island were invited to come to St. Elizabeth.

- A Drummer was there for prayer service at St. Elizabeth.
- In process of planning a Pow Wow for the afternoon of June 19th Mass will be celebrated in the morning before the Pow Wow. Four years ago St. Elizabeth School hosted a Pow Wow. The aim is to make this part of the culture of St. Elizabeth and would like to include UCC in the future.

St. Elizabeth - *Ann Fournier, Outdoor Supervisor*

- Connection with Walpole Island very important
- Day prior to last Pow Wow was a whole day of First Nations teachings for the students.
- Press Altman and Tyler White are part of the planning team for the Pow Wow
- Meal will be hosted in the school gymnasium, after the Pow Wow for the dancers and drummers etc.
- Spirituality is entrenched within all the activities they are doing at St. Elizabeth.

St. John Fisher – *Steve DeGurse*

- Luke George, retired OPP, came into the school to speak with Grade 8 students and it was an opportunity for the students to ask any questions they wanted of Luke. This was a very positive day
- Students have Lacrosse in the school and they are enjoying it.
- One student has self-identified as First Nations is now part of the morning announcement crew.

7. *Ministry Focus – FNMI Education Framework – Deb Crawford*

Proposals for current year FNMI Funding

- FNMI policy framework has been published and copies of the Implementation plan and framework were passed around to the members
- Pages 13, 14, 15 of this document would like all students and teachers to become aware of all indigenous peoples and cultures
- Self-identification is important.
- Use of collaborative strategies is encouraged.

8. *Report from the Board – Caroline VanRoestel-Seward*

Accepted Proposals:

- Super FNMI readers
- Embedding FNMI in Social Science History and Geography Curriculum
- Building our Cultural Awareness
- Improving our FNMI Self-Identification response
- Native Games in Elementary School
 - Technology (Aurasma)
 - 21 C learning (communicating, critical thinking)
 - First Nation content Integration
 - Self-reflection

Feedback from the group on the following was requested:

- Meeting times

- Locations
- Content

9. *Next Meeting Date*

Fall of 2014 – *TBD*

The meeting was adjourned:

Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann and Caroline Van Roestel-Seward) to adjourn the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Communities Committee Meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Carried.

Guest Speaker: Mr. John Snake - The Medicine Wheel.